WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

5   1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photosensitive body having a photosensitive
layer; and

an optical scanning device having a deflector

10   deflecting a light flux emitted from a light source, and

scanning the surface of said photosensitive body by the

thus-deflected light flux,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that

a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light

15   fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being

overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction, and

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter

Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said

photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value

20   in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an

interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the

following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said apparatus is further configured such that a
ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan
direction on the surface of said photosensitive body

5 defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure
distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot
diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of
said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum
value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot

10 satisfies the following formula:

    Wm / Ws < 1

15

3. An optical scanning device comprising:
a deflector deflecting a light flux emitted

20 from a light source, and scanning a surface of a
photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,
wherein a dot is formed at a center between
adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light
fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan

25 direction, and

wherein said device is configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure

5   distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

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4.   The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein

15   said device is further configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the

20   sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

25    $$Wm / Ws < 1$$

5. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of:

a) emitting a light flux from a light source;

b) deflecting the light flux; and

c) scanning a surface of a photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction,

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan

direction on the surface of said photosensitive body

defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure

distribution of the beam spot to the static beam-spot

diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of

5   said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum

value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot

satisfies the following formula:

Wm / Ws < 1

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15   7.   An image forming apparatus comprising:

photosensitive means having a photosensitive

layer; and

an optical scanning means having deflecting

means for deflecting a light flux emitted by light

20   emitting means, and scanning the surface of said

photosensitive means by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein a dot is formed at a center between

adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light

fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan

25   direction,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the

5   exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < Ws / L < 4.5$$

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15   8.   The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter Wm in a main scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to

20   the static beam-spot diameter Ws in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive means defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot satisfies the following formula:

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$$Wm \ / \ Ws \ < \ 1$$